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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/791,895

03/04/2004

Christian Keller

7346

5189

39196

7590

05/29/2009

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, BRANDON LEE

ART UNIT

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3772

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/791,895	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KELLER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> BRANDON JACKSON	<b>Art Unit</b> 3772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10-13 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 5-6, 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 7 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Supplemental Office Action is in response to Interview, dated 3/25/2008, where it was agreed that the 103 rejection of Sheridan in view of Field did not completely read on part (g) of claim 1 (claims entered 1/9/2009).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see Pages 11-12, filed 1/9/2009, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 under 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Larson et al. (US Patent 3,508,554). The arguments were persuasive because Sheridan in view of Field did not sufficiently teach the intermediate section having a SHORE hardness of about 50 SHORE A to 90 SHORE D, in combination with the first and second ends being 20 to 30% less than the selected hardness of the intermediate section. Applicant's argument to the Sheridan device not being flippable was not found to be persuasive, because the device would not be unsatisfactory for its intended use of insertion into the user's throat by flipping the device. This premise is illustrated by endotracheal tubes that have a flat surface on their insertion end, an example of this is Ashlin (US Patent D398,989).

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 2, 4, 10-12, and 22-24 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims appear to be in an list form by using "a)", however, the letter

Art Unit: 3772

should be "l)" because the claim are dependent from claim 1, which already states "a)".

Appropriate correction is required. This issue is also in withdrawn claims 3, 5-6, and 13.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-2, 4, 10-12, and 22-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan (US Patent 3,508,554) in view of Field (US Patent 5,919,183) and Larson et al. (US Patent 7,115,183). Sheridan discloses an esophageal device comprising a slender tube/insert (2) that has multiple functions (col. 1, lines 33-42). The tube/insert (2) comprises a tubular member (4) a first section (8), second section (6), and intermediate section (fig. 2) therebetween; integrally connected. The tube/insert is made of plastic and opaque (col. 5, lines 56-61). Also, the tube/insert (2) has indicia markings (10) to mark the depth of the tube in the user. The first and

Art Unit: 3772

second sections (8, 6) have front and rear sections, as well as tips (fig. 2). The length and diameter of the tube/insert (2) are about 20 to 90 cm and 2 to 5 mm (col. 4, lines 70-73), respectively.

With respect to the second section front portion extending from about 0.5% to about 50% of the total length of said slender tube/insert (2), the applicant has not disclosed that this specificity implies any particular criticality or useful advantage. Further, Sheridan does not disclose a specific length or range of lengths for the distal section with respect to the total length of the tube/insert (2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the second section front portion in accordance with the needs of a particular patient as such would have been a matter of engineering design choice.

The tube/insert is flexible (col. 8, lines 60-62). It is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the endotracheal tubes are made of stiff, malleable, and ductile material in order to position a tube in the throat without injuring the user and to allow the tube to bend from the mouth to the throat without collapsing the tube so medical devices, air, or food can pass through the tube. Sheridan fails to disclose the selected hardness of the first and second sections are between about 50 SHORE A to about 90 SHORE D, the tube is made of PVC, tips of softer material than the intermediate section, an end bent between 25 and 45 degrees that reshapes upon withdrawal, and the first and second sections having a SHORE hardness approximately 20 to 30% less than said selected hardness of said intermediate section. However, Field teaches an endotracheal tube (1) comprising an introducer (2) of hardness between 50 SHORE A and 80 SHORE D (col.

Art Unit: 3772

1, lines 53-55), that has a proximal end bent at 40 degrees (col. 2, lines 35-40), which is around 35 degrees, and reshapes upon withdrawal (col. 46-49), and tips softer than the intermediate section (col. 3, lines 26-29); a tube (1) made of PVC (col. 2, lines 19-20) that bends to conform to the throat (col. 2, lines 21-25). Therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to modify the Sheridan device with the limitations, as taught by Field, in order to make the tube easier to insert into the user's throat. Moreover, either side of the Sheridan/Field tube/insert could be bent at a 40 degree angle and inserted into the patient first.

The Sheridan/Field device does not teach the first and second insertable sections having SHORE hardness approximately 20% to 30% less than the selected hardness of the intermediate section. However, Larson teaches transition member of a catheter (fig. 1) comprising a midsection (58) having a SHORE hardness of 81 D (col. 6, lines 1-7) and distal/insertion end (80) have a SHORE hardness of 63 D (col. 7, lines 11-14). Further, Larson teaches the hardness of member may be varied along the length of the member with the ends being most flexible (col. 2, lines 49-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the distal ends of the Sheridan/Field device to have the hardnesses as taught by Larson in order to allow for easy passage of the tube through the body by allowing the tip to bend prior to the midsection, which enables the physician to steer the tube through the body of the patient.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRANDON JACKSON whose telephone number is (571)272-3414. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco can be reached on (571)272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brandon Jackson/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3772

BLJ

/Patricia Bianco/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3772